of announcements, which will have a favourable impact on industrial growth. These include setting up of National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council to suggest measures to enhance competitiveness in the manufacturing sector, the establishment of the Investment Commission to woo and facilitate both domestic and foreign businesses to invest in India and rationalisation of excise and customs duties.

Indo-China Trade

1168. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REEDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India-China bilateral trade has touched $ 10 billion during the current year;

(b) if so, what was the trade during the year 2003-04;

(c) whether Government are considering to improve the trade with China further during 2004-05; and

(d) if so, the steps being considered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Indo-China Bilateral Trade during 2003-04 amounted to US $7007.57 million (Provisional).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Steps being taken, on an on-going basis, for increasing Indo-China Trade include, participation in trade fairs/ exhibitions, organizing buyer-seller meets, exchange of delegation at both Governmental and Business levels, exchange of information etc.

Flower export zones

1169. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new deal for rural India would be extended to set up flower export zones at various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concessions proposed to be given for export of cut, loose and dried flowers to global market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Argi Export Zones (AEZs) for flowers have been sanctioned in five States and are being set up. Details of these AEZs are given below:

State	Disctricts covered under AEZ proposed	Investment (Rs. in crores)	Anticipated exports in 5 years (Rs. in crores)
Tamil Nadu	Dharmapuri	24.85	158.76
Tamil Nadu	Nilgiris	15.88	109.88
Karnataka	Bangalore (Urban), Bangalore (Rural), Kolar, Tumkur, Kodagu and Belgaum	29.28	312.50
Maharashtra	Pune, Nasik, Kolhapur and Sangli	17.89	75.00
Uttaranchal	Dehradun, Pantnagar, Udhamsingh Nagar, Nainital and Uttarkashi	13.76	28.28
Sikkim	East Sikkim	32.31	45.08

(c) APEDA is providing financial assistance to exporters of scheduled products including flowers through its plan schemes approved by the Government for Market Development, Infrastructure Development, Quality Development, Research and Development, Transport Assistance and Planting Material.

Tea auctions

1170. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from some tea committees to bring 100 per cent of tea sales through the auctions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken thereon?